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Oceans and the law of the sea: Consideration of elements relating to oceans and seas, including improvement of coordination and cooperation

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the letter dated 8 June 2000 from the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization concerning acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships and seafarers in various parts of the world (see annex).

* A/55/150.

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Annex

Letter dated 8 June 2000 from the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

The increasing number and seriousness of acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships and seafarers in various parts of the world continues to be a major concern of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and its member Governments.

IMO deeply appreciates the support of the General Assembly of the United Nations for its efforts to prevent and suppress this scourge and to ensure that the perpetrators of these unlawful acts do not go unpunished. A clear demonstration of this was provided in resolution 54/31 on "Oceans and the law of the sea", adopted on 24 November 1999 by the General Assembly, which, among other things, called upon States to cooperate fully with IMO and to implement the relevant IMO guidelines.

At its recent seventy-second session (17-26 May 2000), the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, while acknowledging the positive action of the General Assembly and being appreciative of its support, was of the opinion that there might be additional assistance which could be provided from other bodies within the United Nations system which would ensure that seafarers and ships could safely and peacefully engage in international maritime activities. It therefore asked me to bring the matter to the attention of the United Nations for such additional action as it might deem appropriate.

I would therefore appreciate it if you could once again bring this to the attention of the members of the General Assembly when consideration is being given to ocean affairs.

(*Signed*) W. A. **O'Neil**
Secretary-General